

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

53636

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 PM-05 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01
 PRS-01 SS-20 IGA-02 IO-13 UPW-01 /114 R

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202236

SUBJECT: CON SON

1. ON JULY 14, 1970, SENATOR MUSKIE AND 15 OTHER SENATORS SUBMITTED A RESOLUTION REGARDING PRISON CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM. RESOLUTION RESOLVES THAT CONGRESS CONDEMN "CRUEL AND INHUMANE TREATMENT OF LARGE NUMBERS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN SOUTH VIETNAM"; URGES GVN IMPROVE PRISON SYSTEM, REFORM ITS SYSTEM AND PRACTICE OF JUSTICE, IMPROVE MALNUTRITION AND DISEASE WITHIN PRISONS, AND BRING ALL PRISONERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN TRIED TO PROMPT AND FAIR TRIAL; CONSIDERS A.I.D. CORRECTIONS PROGRAM INEFFECTUAL, COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, IN NEED OF INVESTIGATION; URGES PRESIDENT TO PRES GVN TO IMPROVE PRISON SYSTEM, ELIMINATE AN TRI, CREATE EMERGENCY TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE PRISON FACILITIES, PERMIT OPEN INSPECTION BY INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL BODY; AND URGES SIMILAR STEPS ON GOVERNMENT OF NORTH VIETNAM.

2. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ASKS OUR VIEWS ON RESOLUTION AND HAS INDICATED IT MIGHT BRING UP RESOLUTION FOR ACTION NEXT WEEK.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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3. DEPARTMENT IS REPLYING THAT GVN CARRIED OUT INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS IN CON SON AND CLOSED ISOLATION CELLS. ALSO, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF PRISONS ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND WOULD CARRY OUT IMPROVEMENTS WHERE NEEDED.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BY DECEMBER 14, MONDAY, CLARIFYING IF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DID IN FACT CONDUCT SURVEYS OF PRISONS ELSEWHERE IN VIETNAM AND WHAT IF ANYTHING RESULTED FROM SURVEYS. ALSO NEED ESPECIALLY REPORT ALL STEPS TAKEN BY GVN AND CORDS SINCE CODEL VISIT IN JULY TO IMPROVE PRISON CONDITIONS AND YOUR SUGGESTED RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED IN RESOLUTION. (PARA 1 ABOVE).

GP-3. ROGERS

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